

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/EP 03/12668

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G01N27/416 G01N27/403

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 241 601 A (YOKOGAWA ELECTROFACT BV) 21 October 1987 (1987-10-21) the whole document	1,8-10
X	EP 0 417 347 A (HEWLETT PACKARD GMBH) 20 March 1991 (1991-03-20) the whole document	1,8,9
X	DE 195 39 763 A (KNICK ELEKTRONISCHE MESGERAETE) 30 April 1997 (1997-04-30) column 1, line 8-12 column 2, line 33-42; figure 1	1,8

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

13/04/2004

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Information on patent family members

PCT/EP 03/12668

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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			DE 3668991 D1	15-03-1990
			JP 1818751 C	27-01-1994
			JP 5029263 B	28-04-1993
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			US 5100530 A	31-03-1992
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